



SSUNS 2013

The Future is Yours



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Dear Faculty Advisors,

As the school year winds down for many high schools, I hope this letter finds you well and that the stress of exams and end-of-the-year activities has not been too much of a burden.

In SSUNS news, registration has officially opened! I cannot explain to you the overwhelming joy I felt watching as the first few delegations registered for SSUNS 2013 when registration opened on May 21st. Within just the first week, SSUNS has already received its first African and Caribbean delegations. Furthermore, we are delighted to see our delegations carrying on the tradition of SSUNS; several registrations have come from our most faithful returning delegations, some of whom have been coming for the last 10 years or more!

Although McGill students are now on summer break, I can assure you that the SSUNS staff are still busy at work making preparations for this year's conference. Someone once explained that "SSUNS is a lifestyle" - I really couldn't agree more.

As we head into the summer, I strongly advise all faculty advisors to take advantage of the priority registration deadline and register their delegations now before school ends. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time!

Best with the end of the school year!

Sincerely,
Serena Wang



PASS THE TORCH

Incentive Program

More than anything else, SSUNS strives to offer the most memorable experience possible for all those who attend. We take great pleasure in knowing that our delegates and faculty advisors are able to walk away with memories and friendships that last from one conference to the next. As a part of this tradition of continuity, SSUNS is introducing a new "Passing the Torch" program. This program hopes to motivate delegations to spread the word about SSUNS and encourage new delegations to discover all that SSUNS has to offer.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROGRAM:

- *Any delegation that helps to attract and register a new school in Canada or the USA will be waived the fee for two delegates*
- *Any delegation that helps to attract and register a new school from outside of Canada or the USA will be waived the fee for three delegates*
- *A "new school" refers to a school who has not attended SSUNS in the last 5 years*
- *The new school will be asked to write the name of the delegation that had given them the recommendation on the registration page (which can be found at <http://www.ssuns.org/registration>)*



1) Find another high school

2) Get them excited for SSUNS 2013

3) Tell them about SSUNS 2013

4) Help them register online

5) Get delegate discounts!

I “MUN” because...

Model UN is truly a lifestyle. Moreover, we live and we breathe SSUNS. Ask anyone who is a part of SSUNS—once you catch the Model UN bug, you’re hooked. So what is it that drives this obsession? The SSUNS staff share some of the reasons why they “MUN”...(and yes, MUN is definitely a verb).

“MUN opened the door to people smarter than me, better prepared than me, and people who looked better in suits than me. I never would have realized that without MUN...And that has made me a better person!”

- Brendan Sheehan, Crisis Director—Punic Wars

The most obvious way Model UN has helped me was in gaining confidence to speak my mind publicly. As much as the popular talk tells youth to get actively involved and stand up for what they believe in, it’s not always that easy. Since starting Model UN, I’ve learned to be confident in my own arguments and I’ve learned the value of public argumentation. Model UN has also taught me to pursue my goals more actively and has definitely improved my educational experience.

• Daniel Etcovich, Chair—Newspaper Revolution 2020

“Model UN offers a glimpse into potential career paths; it’s great to see course material applied to the real world. That’s why MUN withdrawal is very real. In the few days that we get to “suit up” and actually live out international politics, it challenges us to be responsible, interdependent, and dynamic.

- Sheena Li, Chair—Organization of American States

“After attending SSUNS, there was no turning back for me. I had only wished that I had gotten involved with Model UN earlier!”

- Hilary Chu, Deputy Specialized Agencies

“Model UN has provided me an excellent avenue to interact with students with similar interests. It is great having a network of like-minded individuals you can discuss international issues with and work with towards building a conference that facilitates such discussions.”

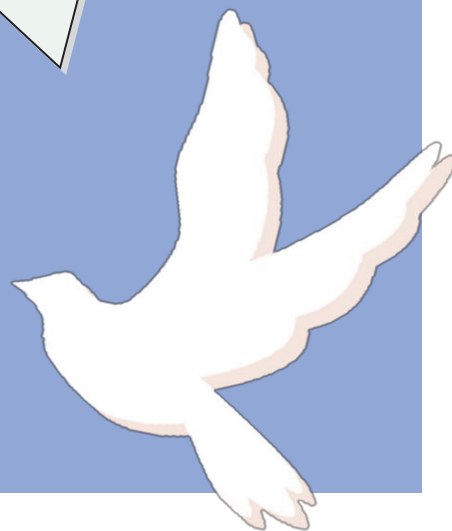
- Arundhathi Desai, Deputy Public Relations

“I immigrated to Canada when I was ten, became a Canadian citizen at 14, but this summer, when I am 22, I am serving Canada at the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. All this was possible because of my obsession with Model UN.”

- Daniel Stysis, Chair—Punic Wars

“I find through Model UN, both as part of a dais and as a delegate, I have gotten much more comfortable with the art of succinct argument, which has changed the way I pursue all kinds of discourse, whether it be academic or casual.”

- Daniel Carter, Deputy GA&ECOSOCs



Where can Model UN lead you?

So why should delegates stay involved with Model UN? We've already talked about how Model United Nations is an important extra-curricular activity with many assets for students from middle school through to university. However, why should students stay involved with Model UN all these years? Why keep doing Model UN? Where can Model UN lead you from here?



United Nations

Although this may be the most obvious path for many Model UN activists, there are still a wide variety of possible careers to explore within the United Nations. In fact, Dana Al-Zaben, Secretary-General of SSUNS 2012 is currently working at the World Bank



News and Publishing

Model UN will help delegates to become more knowledgeable about the world. What could be better than devoting a career towards writing about everything that was discussed from debates in Model UN?



Law & Teaching

One of the most important aspects of Model UN is building and fostering a global community. This can only be done through speaking, sharing, and teaching the ideas debated and discussed from Model UN beyond the scope of mock simulations. Several SSUNS alumni are now attending law school.



Business

It is important that the solutions and proposals discussed in Model UN are actually applied in the real world, especially starting in the business world. A large number of SSUNS staff and alumni are in finance, management, or economics related majors



Medicine & Global Health

Although the first thought that comes to mind may be "doctor" when talking about medicine, there are a wide range of careers that combine both medicine and international relations.



Engineering & Design

SSUNS staff come from literally every possible major or background. Many of the SSUNS staff and alumni are currently studying or working in the engineering field.



Discover your own career!

The journey only starts from here! Combine a multitude of interests, discover new interests—anything is possible!



Resolutions, Uprisings, and Bayonets...

How the committees at SSUNS ties it all together

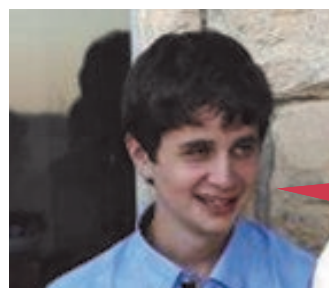
A Model UN conference would be nothing without the committees. How exactly do four talented, passionate, and tireless people manage 23 of the most—well, let's be honest—wildly creative committees Model UN has ever seen? Let's find out...



Daniel: "I hope to inject a bit of fun with some thought-provoking takes on GAs and ECOSOCs - I'd like to shake off this idea that the traditional committees are the boring ones!"



Hilary: "I hope to challenge both new and experienced delegates to solve the pressing challenges the world is facing today, and to love every minute of it."



Jon: "I want to provide high school students with an educational avenue of equal or hopefully greater value than the one that I was provided. "

USG Committee Affairs

The fearless leader, the commander in chief, find a synonym for "leader" and you've got Ani Desai. As USG Committees, Ani is responsible for directing Team Committees, which includes his three Deputies as well as over 200 chairs, vice chairs, directors, and crisis staffers. He is also the mastermind behind this year's committees list. Not only does he guarantee that all substantive materials for staff and delegates are nothing less than perfection, but Ani ensures all staff are trained to provide only the best committee experience possible for the delegates at SSUNS.

The Deputies

Team committees wouldn't be a "team" without Daniel, Hilary, and Jon. Each member of this all-star team adds their own individual spark to their respective committees while working together to create one perfectly oiled machine. Deputies each oversee 7-8 committees. They work directly with the chairs, vice-chairs, directors and crisis staffers of their committees, setting topics for debate, writing background guides, training staff, and offering their seasoned advice to staff.

Category	Size	Description
General Assemblies & Economic and Social Councils (GA&ECOSOC)	50 to 200	More traditional structure, resolutions, parliamentary procedure
Specialized Agencies (SA)	12 to 100	More flexibility, hybrid SA-crisis
Crisis	10 to 20	Anything goes!

Introducing the SSUNS 2013 Conference Charity!



United Nations
**World Food
Programme**

A full profile on this year's charity will be featured in the July issue of the newsletter. For more information on SSUNS' partnership with the World Food Programme and on how you can get involved, please visit www.ssuns.org/wfp.

How can you come to SSUNS?

Information on Registration

So your delegation has decided to come to SSUNS 2013? Let me assure you that you have made an excellent decision! Allow me to walk you through just how easy it is to register with us. Before you know it, you will be finding yourself at the Delta-Centreville in Montreal this November!

STEP 1: Visit the SSUNS Website

Any questions you may have about SSUNS can be answered at <http://www.ssuns.org>. Pick your favourite committees, meet the Secretariat, learn about scholarships, discover Montreal, learn about conference and hotel fees, and much more!



STEP 2: Calculate your conference fees

SSUNS registration fees consist of 2 components:

- 1) **Non-Refundable delegation fee**
- 2) **Total fee per delegate attending**

The total fee will consist of the delegation fee (paid at the time of registration) plus the delegate fee multiplied by the total number of delegates attending. Information on conference fees can be found at <http://www.ssuns.org/payment>



STEP 3: Determine your top choices

- A) Refer to the country-committee matrix at <http://www.ssuns.org/CountryCommitteeMatrix> to determine your country/NGO choices.
- B) Refer to the committees list at <http://www.ssuns.org/committees-list> for more information on Specialized Agencies and Crisis Committees. IMPORTANT! Please be aware that certain committees are by application only.



STEP 4: Register Online

Starting May 21st, your delegation will be able to register online at <http://www.ssuns.org/registration>. IMPORTANT: SSUNS will be utilizing PayPal this year (please visit <http://www.ssuns.org/payment> for more information).



STEP 5: Confirmation

Once your registration has been verified and approved. You will receive an email with login information for your new account on the SSUNS website. Please keep make sure to remember your login information as all future correspondence with SSUNS will be done through this account.

TIMELINE

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May 21 **Online
Priority
Registration**

July 30 **Priority
Registration
Deadline**

October 8 **Regular
Registration
Deadline**

October 8 **Hotel
Registration
Deadline**

November 7—10
SSUNS 2013

IMPORTANT NOTES!

- 1) Should you wish to have a spot in the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Secretary General, please indicate it in the application. Depending on the interest generated, the committee may be application based.
- 2) If you are registering by the priority deadline, please ensure that your cheque is received by July 20, 2012 to obtain the additional benefits.

Close Up on the Secretariat...

Anirudh Desai | USG Committees Affaires

Major: Psychology, U3

Hometown: Oakville, Ontario

Lived in: India, Singapore

History with SSUNS: Delegate (SSUNS 2008), Crisis Staffer (SSUNS 2010), Vice Chair (SSUNS 2011), Deputy Crisis (SSUNS 2012)

First Involvement with SSUNS

I was recommended by a friend and was cynical of the UN and its ability to get work done at first. It was what I saw at SSUNS that has changed my perspective completely. I saw so many passionate people trying so hard to work together while achieving results that benefitted everyone, and that's what makes me want to come back every year. Model UN has shown me that I want to end up in a career where I can interact with people on a daily basis. It has also taught me a lot about myself and given me the confidence to live to my potential.

Best Model UN Experience:

Last year when I was serving as Deputy Crises, one of my crisis directors dressed up as Bane on the final day and proceeded to storm one of the General Assemblies with a group of delegates and staffers. I was terrified at first as I thought that they had done it without permission and had thus disrupted a committee session, but I later found out that they had spoken to the Secretary-General and USG Committees beforehand. It was then really awesome to see how excited all the delegates were by the show.

Why do you love McGill?

There are so many people from so many different parts of the world who all take immense pride in the work that they do. It is a great atmosphere to be around.

Daniel Carter | Deputy General Assemblies & Economic and Social Councils

Major: Cognitive Science, U2

Hometown: Guelph, Ontario

Lived in: Born in Guildford, UK

History with SSUNS: This is Daniel's first SSUNS! Although he first started at SOMUN as a delegate and staffed at McMUN last year.

If you could choose a UN committee to describe yourself, which would it be and why?

I would probably be UNESCO - I like looking at issues from a multifaceted perspective as UNESCO does, synthesizing issues in geography, science, history, & culture. I'm a huge advocate for lifelong learning, and think that much education comes from outside the classroom. I also have a touch of wanderlust, which fits nicely with UNESCO's projects.

What do you hope to bring that is new and innovative to committees?

Internet Governance Forum is going online this year - SSUNS goes hi-tech! Some committees are being held with a futuristic bent, which ties in nicely with the theme of this year's conference. Mostly it's about running traditional committees in a non-traditional way, with topics that delegates might not be expecting. I'm also excited for a couple of other twists that hopefully the delegates won't see coming, but which I don't want to divulge where they might see it.

Is there a committee that you are most excited for?

If I really had to choose, and no offense to anyone who might be reading this, it would have to be the Alliance of Civilizations. The committee was founded on such an interesting and important premise, that of co-operation between the European and Islamic worlds, that the debate that will take place will surely be of great magnitude. I find the clash of cultural rights and UN ideals to be one of the most intriguing dichotomies in the UN and look forward to seeing how delegates tackle it.



Close Up on the Secretariat...

Hilary Chu | Deputy Specialized Agencies

Major: Double Major in Economics and Political Science, U2

Hometown: Vancouver, BC

History with SSUNS: Delegate (SSUNS 2010), Committee Director (SSUNS 2012), other Model UN experience involves both acting as a delegate and staff member

What got you started with Model UN? Why SSUNS and why come back?

I come back to SSUNS because of my own experience as a delegate - SSUNS was the first Model UN conference I ever attended, and I knew I wanted to help run it if I decided to come to McGill. Although preparing for the conference is a pretty big time commitment, I came back to SSUNS this year because it's so rewarding to see the delegates enjoying themselves and bringing so much enthusiasm to their respective committees.

Tips for first time delegates? Advice for returning delegates?

The hardest part is saying something your first time in committee, it's all downhill from there.

What has been your best or funniest Model UN moment?

When I was in grade 7, I attended a conference for students new to Model UN. My committee room had microphones in front of each seat that you pressed a button to turn on. After making my first speech, I whispered to my friend sitting next to me, "that was scary." Turns out, my microphone was still on and the entire room heard me.

What is your favourite thing about being a part of Team Committees?

It is the best of both worlds in that I get to be creative with my own committees, but I also have a fantastic support system and am never actually working alone. It's refreshing to be able to turn to the rest of TC and get a new perspective on something. I also love that I get to work with lots of fantastic chairs and vice chairs who are all so dedicated and enthusiastic.



Jonathan Schmidt | Deputy Crisis Committees

Major: Honours Economics, Minor in International Relations, U3

Hometown: Haifa, Israel

Lived in: Boston, Cambridge, New York City, Montreal

History with SSUNS: Committee Director (SSUNS 2012), other Model UN experience includes crisis staffer at McMUN 2013, experience with debate in high school

Do you have a personal goal for SSUNS 2013?

My overall background is much more in debate than it was in Model U.N. and I see many strengths to each side. Trying to maybe add a bit more of the research and confrontation focus of debate could possibly increase the depth of deliberations we have at the conference.

Provide high school students with an educational avenue of equal or hopefully greater value than the one that I was provided.

Is there a committee that you are most excited for?

Ad Hoc is planning some things that have amazing potential, so I have to choose them. It also a really good choice for a cliffhanger.

Advice for first time delegates?

If it's your first time, it's important to remember that this is first and foremost a learning experience. Doing well is great, but not doing well is perfectly fine- you still get the primary learning benefit. It's natural to feel pressure in competitive situations such as this, but the competition is really not the point of the conference.

Any interesting facts?

When I was very young I got to be in France, Austria, Italy, Turkey, and others without actually remembering any of those travels due to how young I was. I luckily remember traveling to Tanzania though, because the safari is still quite possibly the greatest thing I have ever witnessed.



At the heart of the committees...



Daniel Stysis | Chair, Punic Wars

Major: Political Science and Economics, U3

Lived in: Haifa, Israel and Montreal, Canada

History with SSUNS: Delegate (SSUNS 2009), Director (SSUNS 2010), Chair (SSUNS 2011 and SSUNS 2012), 20th Model UN conference overall

What made you get involved with SSUNS? What made you come back ?

SSUNS was my first ever Model UN conference. I was so inspired by that first experience, that it shaped my next three years, studying Political Science at McGill and pursuing a passion in International Relations which took me further than just 20 or so model un conferences. In fact, this passion lead me to get involved in various ways and even get very interesting professional opportunities.

Why Punic Wars?

I wanted to be part of this committee because of my nerdy teenager obsession with history, ancient history in particular. As much as I read books, I also played strategy games, Age of Empires and Rome Total War. Criticize video games all you want, but games of the right kind can actually serve as very good teaching tools all while transforming an abstract narrative into visuals of epic battles and campaigns where you need to build up your forces, manage your forces and coordinate them in battle. As for my vision for the committee, I am most excited to see knowledgeable delegates that are not intimidated by a crisis committee narrative that does not follow the historical timeline that they read about in preparation for the conference.

What is an interesting fact about yourself?

Taiwan's ministry of foreign affairs once paid for my flight, food and stay in Taiwan for 6 days just to hear me describe my essay about Canada-Taiwan relations for 5 minutes.



Sheena Li | Chair, Organization of American States

Major: Honours International Development Studies, Double Minor in International Relations and Hispanic Studies

Hometown: Born in China grew up in Toronto

History with SSUNS: Director (SSUNS 2011), Vice Chair (SSUNS 2012)

What got you started with Model UN?

Coming to McGill was really my first taste of MUN, and after a weekend of debating at the first annual IRSIM held at McGill, I was hooked.

Why the Organization of American States?

I chose the OAS because I believe that many global issues are converging in the Americas, and for delegates, this represents an opportunity to cover a wide range of topics. I want this committee to take risks, be innovative and step out of the traditional debate setting when dealing with topics.

If you could choose a UN committee to describe yourself, which would it be and why?

I would be the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, always going in with optimistic intentions, but getting road blocked by the realities of life.

How has Model UN changed you?

For me, Model UN offers a glimpse into potential career paths; as a development and international relations student, it's always great to see course material being applied to real-world situations. That's why MUN withdrawal is very real. In the few days that we get to "suit up", stop being students, and actually live out international politics, it challenges us to be responsible, interdependent, and dynamic. Meeting so many amazing people through MUN has really sparked my interest in diplomacy, which has definitely become a viable option for me.

At the heart of the committees...



Sumaira Mazhar | Chair, Food & Agricultural Organization

Major: Occupational Therapy

Lived in: Born and raised in Singapore, currently living in Montreal

History with SSUNS: Delegate since CEGEP, Vice Chair (SSUNS 2010), Chargée d'Affaires (SSUNS 2011), Chair (SSUNS 2012)

How have you been shaped by your experiences in Model UN?

In addition to learning more about international relations and current affairs, my participation in Model UN conferences has fostered extensive personal growth. It has honed my problem solving, critical thinking, and public speaking skills. Learning more about the current global health situation through various conferences has also sparked my interest in taking a more active role in the health sector. I am interested in furthering my knowledge about the Canadian health care system and pursuing a career in a related field.

Why choose FAO?

FAO is the oldest permanent specialized agency of the United Nations. With objectives to eliminate world hunger and improve nutrition, its commitment extends beyond policy recommendation. The advancement of technology and shift in geopolitical situation makes this an exciting time to be involved with the FAO! I look forward to seeing how delegates discuss and tackle complex issues surrounding protectionism in food trade, genetically modified organisms & biotechnology, and food security. An interesting fact about FAO: it was established as a specialized United Nations agency in 1945 at its first session, which took place in Quebec City, Canada!

What is an interesting fact about yourself?

I had the opportunity to attend the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2013 as an NGO representative. The theme was "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls." Along with participating in events organized by different Member States, United Nations entities and NGOs to learn more about critical gender equality issues, I also had the opportunity to meet several NGO representatives and government officials.